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SIPDIS

EAP/MLS FOR LAURA SCHEIBE, NSC FOR ELIZABETH PHU, EUR/NB  
FOR MIGUEL RODRIGUES

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/25/2019  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ETRD](#) [BM](#) [FI](#)  
SUBJECT: FINLAND: BURMA POLICY REVIEW

REF: STATE 33547

Classified By: PolChief Scott Brandon for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

(C) PolOff met with Heidi Marttila, Finnish MFA Unit for Asia and Oceania on April 23. Marttila reiterated the Government of Finland's (GoF) position that rewards should not be given for a deterioration in the status quo; GoF does not want to send the wrong message to the Burmese Government. She noted that nothing has worked to improve conditions. Marttila quoted the Special Envoy's conclusions that something new must be done, but noted that he is looking into what "something new" would be. She said that the GoF agrees with holding dialogue. She expressed concern that the opposition in Burma is divided between those who view the 2010 elections as a "little window of opportunity" and criticize sanctions and those in the opposition who view the elections as a "joke" and support strengthening sanctions. (Note: GoF has no Embassy in Burma and operates through Bangkok. Marttila pointed out that Burmese activist Ko Ko Thett resides in Helsinki where he works as an independent researcher. End Note.)  
BUTLER